



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

MINUTES

June 3, 2021, 5PM

Members present: Meagan Benetti, Zoe Iacovino, Jessica Lieberman, Emily Monea, Laura Pitone, Kat Rutkin, Lucas Schaber, Beverly (Bev) Schwartz, William (Bill) White

Members not present: Ben Echevarria, Ona Ferguson, Crystal Turner

Staff attending: Anna Corning, Hope Williams, Collins Center - Libby Corbo, Collins Center - Steve McGoldrick

Other attending: Joel Paul, Kinga Borondy, Klaus Schultz, Pat Cain, Greg Dennis

Meeting started at 5:00PM

Decisions:

1. Committee approved meeting minutes from 5/20.
 - a. Nine 5s
2. Committee agreed upon a general positive feeling about the community engagement timeline, with a kickoff event in July and most community engagement events happening in August through November.
 - a. Seven 5s, Two 4s
3. Committee approved the community engagement tri-fold mail brochure with minor changes and additions.
 - a. Nine 5s
4. Committee agreed to have the community engagement working group create a proposal on public comment.
 - a. Nine 5s
5. Committee agreed upon the committee values statement with the addition of "social justice" to the "environmental justice" sentence.
 - a. Eight 5s

The committee uses the Fist to Five method of voting, a technique for gauging consensus. Voting ranges from 0 to 5. The scale is: 0 - no way, 1 - major issues to be resolved now, 2 - minor issues to be resolved now, 3 - minor issues to be resolved later, 4 - comfortable with this as it is, 5 - love this and will champion it. 0-2 is considered a lack of consensus, while 3-5 is considered consensus.

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome - 5:01
 - a. Anna welcomed the committee.
2. Approve 5/20 Minutes - 5:05
 - a. Meeting minutes from May 20th were approved.
3. Community Engagement Update - 5:08
 - a. Meagan gave an update on the general community engagement timeline beginning in mid-July, focused on a July kickoff event with planned events following. The committee weighed the pros and cons of having their own event versus tagging along to another event like SomerStreets. The general timeline is approved, and the community engagement working group will discuss what type of event is best.
 - b. Anna presented the trifold brochure to the committee for discussion. There was interest in making the buildings look more like Somerville, adding a tagline to the front flap, and considering splitting the leftmost inside flap into three different questions instead of two.
 - c. Meagan led a discussion of having public comment at committee meetings, and the committee expresses positives and negatives of having public comment. The working group will create a proposal on if/when public comment should happen and will present it at the next meeting.
4. Values Statement - 5:45
 - a. Jessica presented and read the potential Committee Values Statement. There was widespread support of the statement and general thanks to Jessica for her hard work on the statement. The committee approved the values statement with the addition of adding “social justice” to the sentence mentioning “environmental justice,” in order to better encompass what the committee meant by the sentence.
5. Collins Center Presentation - 5:50
 - a. Libby from the Collins Center presented the Crosswalk Memo to the committee for background and reference.
 - i. The committee asked clarifying questions about the difference between amendments versus a new charter, and what path the committee should take. The Collins Center recommended drafting a new charter instead of red lining the current charter, because in the latter, the entire charter would be redlined and the committee would then need to write a new charter - therefore, this is the best place to start. The committee agreed to take fist-to-five vote on this at the next meeting.
 - b. Libby presented Exemplar Charter language to the committee for discussion and brainstorming.
 - i. The committee asked clarifying questions about the definition of a “multiple member body,” recall, boards and commissions, term limits, and other

possibilities that could be changed in Articles 1 to 3. The entire document with comments can be found [here](#).

6. Closing Notes and Action Items - 6:55

- a. The questionnaire discussion was pushed to the next meeting for time, and Anna reminded the committee that the next meeting is June 17th at 5pm. Anna requested the committee to do an in-depth look into the documents from this meeting and bring ideas and questions for the Collins Center in the future.

Meeting concluded at 7:00PM

Next meeting date – The next meeting date will be June 17th at 5PM. It will be held remotely using zoom. Instructions to join the meeting will be provided on the meeting agenda posted at City Hall and on the City's website.

Documents distributed:

- Collins Center Crosswalk Memo
- Collins Center Exemplar Charter
- Values Statement Draft